ALIGN FIRSAPPROVED FOR Release 2005/06/13: CIA RDP78S01932A000100150078-7. 25X1 OUTGOING MESSAGE SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY l 740830 0 0 1122 MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER CIAVUHSS State Department review completed 25X1 SOURCE REF: 25X1 PTPL TZUDUA DE DATE: ITEM NO: SOVIET OFFICIAL RECOMMENDS EMPRESIDENT FORD MEET SUBJECT: WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV 25X1 THE COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF OF LENINGRAD HAS MADE A STRONG PITCH TO THE DEPARTING US CONSUL FOR AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL, G. V. ROMANOV, IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO AND A YOUNG COMER WHO APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED GOOD POLITICAL TIES WITH BREZHNEV. ROMANOV TOLD THE CONSUL THAT THE PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND BREZHNEV HAD BEEN ESSMENTIAL TO ENDING THE "COLD WAR ATMOSPHERE." HE SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PRESIDENT FORD ESTABLISH A SIMILAR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BREZHNEV, IMPLYING THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY

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